GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2089
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF PULSES
ALE NARENDRA;RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of pulses in 2000-2001 as compared to the year 1981;

(b) whether there has been a fall in the per capita availability of pulses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to increase the per capita availability of pulses;

(d) whether the production of pulses has been stagnating over the years;

(e) whether this has adversely affected the price of pulses in the open market; and

(f) if so, the details of steps taken to make available pulses at reasonable prices to weaker section?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)to(f): The per capita net availability of pulses has recorded a fall from 13.7 kg per year / 37.5 gms per day in 1981 to 11.7 kg per year / 32.0 gms per day in 2000. The fall in the per capita availability of pulses may be attributed to several factors like increase in population, lower rate of increase of the production of pulses, etc. The production of pulses, which was 10.63 million tonnes in 1980-81, increased to 14.91 million tonnes in 1998-99 but fell down to 13.35 million tonnes in 1999-2000 and is expected to be 11.06 million tonnes as per the Advance Estimates of production for the year 2000-01. The pulses production in the country is still facing a number of constraints like their cultivation being largely confined to rainfed marginal and sub-marginal lands, high susceptibility to insects, pests and disease, and lack of genetic breakthrough etc. However, the Government is implementing the National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) for increasing the production and productivity of pulses. The shortfall in the requirement of pulses is met through imports whenever necessary. The wholesale price index (WPI) number of pulses for the week ending 10th November 2001 shows a weekly fall of 0.5 per cent, monthly fall of 0.3 per cent and annual rise of 8.4 per cent.